### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TEDDY MACK	•
1336 Kimberly Dr.	:
Overbrook, PA 19151	: CIVIL ACTION
	<b>:</b>
Plaintiff,	: No
v.	:
	:
DAVIS VISION, INC.	:
3805 West Chester Pike	: JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Newtown Square, PA 19073	:
and	:
HVHC, INC.	:
1800 Center St.	:
Camp Hill, PA 17089	:
	:
Defendants.	:
	•

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#### **CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

1. This action has been initiated by Teddy Mack (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff") against Davis Vision, Inc. and HVHC, Inc. (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants," unless indicated otherwise) for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA" - 42 USC §§ 12101 et seq.), the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA - 29 U.S.C. §2601 et. seq.), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII" - 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e, et. seq.), Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 ("Section 1981" - 42 U.S.C. § 1981), and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA"). As a direct consequence of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff seeks damages as set forth herein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plaintiff's claim under the PHRA is referenced herein for notice purposes. He is required to wait 1 full year before initiating a lawsuit from date of dual-filing with the EEOC. Plaintiff must however file his lawsuit in advance of same

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a) (4) because it arises under the laws of the United States and seeks redress for violations of federal laws. There lies supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state-law claims because they arise out of the same common nucleus of operative facts as Plaintiff's federal claims asserted herein.
- 3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendants because their contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district, and Defendants are deemed to reside where they are subject to personal jurisdiction, rendering Defendants residents of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### **PARTIES**

- 5. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
  - 6. Plaintiff is an adult individual, with an address as set forth in the caption.

because of the date of issuance of his federal right-to-sue letter under the ADA and Title VII. Plaintiff's PHRA claims however will mirror identically his federal claims under the ADA and Title VII.

- 7. Defendant Davis Vision, Inc. is a company owned and operated by Defendant HVHC, Inc. that provides vision care coverage through their retail and service locations throughout the United States, including the location at which Plaintiff worked in West Chester, PA.
- 8. Defendant HVHC, Inc. is the parent company of Defendant Davis Vision, Inc. and the third largest operator of specialty optical retail stores in the United States.
- 9. Upon information and belief, because of their interrelation of operations, common ownership or management, centralized control of labor relations, common ownership or financial controls, and other factors, Defendants are sufficiently interrelated and integrated in their activities, labor relations, ownership and management that they may be treated as a single and/or joint employer for purposes of the instant action.
- 10. At all times relevant herein, Defendants acted by and through their agents, servants and employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendants.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

- 11. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
  - 12. Plaintiff is a black (African-American) male.
- 13. Plaintiff was employed with Defendants for approximately 1.5 years (initially through a temporary agency and then as a direct employee for the bulk of his employment).
- 14. While employed with Defendants, Plaintiff's job duties consisted of assisting in various aspect of lens handling.
- 15. Plaintiff has and continues to suffer from disabilities, including but not limited to medical conditions related to his leg/knee.

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- 16. As a result of Plaintiff's aforesaid health conditions, Plaintiff is (at times) limited in his ability to perform some daily life activities, including but not limited to working, walking, and performing manual tasks.
- 17. Despite Plaintiff's aforesaid health conditions and limitations, he was still able to perform the duties of his job well with Defendants; however, Plaintiff did require reasonable medical accommodations on occasion.
- 18. For example, during his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff requested intermittent FMLA-qualifying time off from work to care for and treat for his aforementioned health conditions.
- 19. While Plaintiff was sometimes given the time off he requested from Defendants, he was subjected to hostility and animosity for making such requests and/or utilizing such accommodations, including but not limited to reprimanding Plaintiff for taking time off and using it against him when creating his 2016 performance evaluation (which was not given to him until May of 2017).
- 20. For example, in Plaintiff's 2016 performance evaluation, Defendants' management writes: "Teddy must work on his attendance to become a true team member."
- 21. Plaintiff also requested the ability to move to a different available/open position within Defendants that would be more conducive to his health conditions (as it would have limited the amount of walking that he would have had to do and therefore limit the need for him to work in pain); however, even though Plaintiff applied for multiple available positions within Defendants, he was continuously rejected for no logical or legitimate reason.

- 22. In addition to being subjected to animosity as it related to his aforesaid health conditions and need for reasonable accommodations, Plaintiff was also treated in a discriminatory and disparate manner because of his race while employed with Defendants.
- 23. By way of example, a number of Defendants' employees (at Plaintiff's location) were Hispanic (including upper management) and unlike Plaintiff's Hispanic (and non-disabled) employees, Plaintiff was (1) treated in a rude and condescending manner; (2) spoken to abruptly; (3) turned down for multiple advancement opportunities; (4) had policies selectively enforced against him; and (5) overall treated less favorably than his Hispanic co-workers.
- 24. As a result of the discriminatory treatment that he was being subjected to on the basis of his race, Plaintiff made multiple complaints of race discrimination to Defendants' management, including but not limited to Debbie Wright (Human Resources) and Kenny Dutton (Immediate Supervisor), wherein he expressed that that there was significant disparities in policy enforcement, hiring, job promotions/placement, and other aspects of the workplace between black (African-American) employees and Hispanic employees.
- 25. Despite Plaintiff's aforesaid complaints, Defendants' management never properly investigated or resolved Plaintiff's concerns of racial discrimination.
- 26. Shortly following his aforesaid complaints of racial discrimination, Plaintiff was terminated from his employment with Defendants for completely pretextual reasons.
- 27. Plaintiff's termination was very discriminatory and retaliatory as his termination (1) came shortly after complaining of racial discrimination; (2) occurred at a time when he was confiding in Defendants' management of his aforesaid health conditions; (3) followed his requests for reasonable medical accommodations; and (4) occurred after he was subjected to increased hostility and animosity because of his health conditions, need for accommodations, and/or

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complaints of race discrimination – including but not limited to being denied multiple job opportunities.

#### **COUNT I**

# Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act "ADA" ([1] Actual/Perceived/Record Disability Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Hostile Work Environment; and [4] Failure to Accommodate) -Against Both Defendants-

- 28. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 29. Plaintiff was subjected to subject to a hostile work environment, denied multiple job opportunities, and eventually terminated because of his (1) actual/perceived disabilities; (2) record of impairment; and/or (3) his requests for/utilization of reasonable medical accommodations.
- 30. Defendants also failed to accommodate Plaintiff's health conditions by (1) refusing to transfer him to the available/open positions for which he applied and was qualified for and that would have been more conducive to his health conditions; and (2) by using his medical absences against him in reprimanding him and in issuing his performance evaluation.
  - 31. These actions as aforesaid constitute violations of the ADA.

#### COUNT II

### Violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") (Interference and Retaliation) -Against Both Defendants-

- 32. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 33. Plaintiff was an eligible employee under the definitional terms of the FMLA, 29 U.S.C. § 2611(a)(i)(ii).

- 34. Plaintiff requested leave from Defendants, his employers, with whom he had been employed for at least twelve months pursuant to the requirements of 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(2)(i).
- 35. Plaintiff had at least 1,250 hours of service with the Defendants during his last full year of employment.
- 36. Defendants are engaged in an industry affecting commerce and employs fifty (50) or more employees for each working day during each of the twenty (20) or more calendar work weeks in the current or proceeding calendar year, pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2611(4)(A)(i).
- 37. Plaintiff was entitled to receive leave pursuant to 29 U.S.C.A § 2612 (a)(1) for a total of twelve (12) work weeks of leave on a block or intermittent basis.
- 38. Defendants committed interference and retaliation violations of the FMLA by: (1) using his FMLA-qualifying absences against him when creating his performance evaluation and/or reprimanding him; (2) reprimanding and/or terminating Plaintiff for requesting and/or exercising his FMLA rights and/or for taking FMLA-qualifying leave; (3) by considering Plaintiff's FMLA leave needs in making the decision to reprimand and/or terminate him; and (4) reprimanding and/or terminating Plaintiff to prevent him from taking further FMLA-qualifying leave in the future.
  - 39. These actions as aforesaid constitute violations of the FMLA.

## COUNT III <u>Violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII")</u> ([1] Race Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Hostile Work Environment) -Against Both Defendants-

- 40. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 41. Plaintiff was also subjected to a hostile work environment during his period of employment due to his race and/or complaints of racial discrimination through disparate treatment, pretextual admonishment, and demeaning and/or discriminatory treatment towards him.

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- 42. Plaintiff was also denied several job opportunities and ultimately terminated because of his race and/or complaints of racial discrimination.
  - 43. Defendants' actions as aforesaid constitute violations of Title VII.

## COUNT IV <u>Violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1981 (Section 1981)</u> ([1] Race Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Hostile Work Environment) -Against Both Defendants-

- 44. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
- 45. Plaintiff was also subjected to a hostile work environment during his period of employment due to his race and/or complaints of racial discrimination through disparate treatment, pretextual admonishment, and demeaning and/or discriminatory treatment towards him.
- 46. Plaintiff was also denied several job opportunities and ultimately terminated because of his race and/or complaints of racial discrimination.
  - 47. Defendants' actions as aforesaid constitute violations of Section 1981.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendants are to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff, and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendants' illegal actions, including but not limited to back pay, front pay, salary, pay increases, bonuses, insurance, benefits, training, promotions, reinstatement, and seniority.
- B. Plaintiff is to be awarded liquidated and/or punitive damages, as permitted by applicable law, in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendants for its willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendants or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;

- C. Plaintiff is to be accorded other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just, proper, and appropriate (including but not limited to damages for emotional distress / pain and suffering);
- D. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable attorney's fees as provided by applicable federal and state law; and
  - E. Plaintiff is to be given a jury trial as demanded in the caption of this Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

Ari R. Karpf, Esq. 3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square, Suite 128

Bensalem, PA 19020 (215) 639-0801

Dated: January 26, 2018

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TEDDY MACK

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

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DAVIS VISION, INC	NC., ET AL. NO.					
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(b) Social Security - Cases and Human Services der	requesting review lying plaintiff Soc	of a decis ial Securi	tion of the Secretary of Health ty Benefits.	( )		
(c) Arbitration - Cases requ	ired to be designa	ted for arl	pitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()		
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(f) Standard Management -	Cases that do not	fall into s	any one of the other tracks.	(X)		
1/26/2018		>	Plaintiff			
Date	Attorney-at-	-law	Attorney for			
(215) 639-0801	(215) 639-497	0	akarpf@karpf-law.com			
Telephone	FAX Numb	er	E-Mail Address			

(Clv. 660) 10/02

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to a assignment to appropriate calendar.	is used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff. 1336 Kimberly Drive, Overbrook, PA 19151	,
Address of Defendant: 3805 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA	19073 / 1800 Center Street, Camp Hill, PA 17089
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendants place of business	
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2. D FELA	2. D Airplane Personal Injury
3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. D Assault, Defamation
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7. N Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
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I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not petited to any case now pending or except as noted above.	within one year previously terminated action in this court
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JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil decket sheet. ISEE INSTRUCTIONS ON MESTING FOR THIS FORM.

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l. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
MACK, TEDDY				DAVIS VISION, INC., ET AL.						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, P.C.; 3331 Street Road, Two Greenwood				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Delaware  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attomeys (If Known)  quare,						
Suite 128, Bensalem, PA	19020; (215) 639-08	01; akarpf@karpf-l	law.com							
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1 U.S. Government X 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF DEF PTF Citizen of This State 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4  of Business In This State					DEF 4		
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110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY 1210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR  365 Personal Injury Product Liability  367 Health Care/ Planraceutical Personal Injury Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  385 Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITION  Habeas Corpus:  463 Alien Detainee  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence  530 General  535 Death Penalty  Other:  540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights  555 Prison Condition  560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	TY 0 62:  0 694  TY 0 72:  0 72:  0 79:  0 79:	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 Other  LABOR Fair Labor Standards Act OLabor/Management Relations Railway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION Naturalization Application Other Immigration Other Immigration Other Immigration Other Immigration Actions	422 App	eal 28 USC 158 sdrawal USC 157  RTY-RIGHTS  prights int int - Abbreviated ing Application emark USECURITY 1395fff isk Lung (923) CDIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	☐ 375 False Chai  ' 376 Qui Tam (3  3729(a))  ☐ 400 State Resp  ☐ 410 Anritrust  ☐ 430 Banks and ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportatio ☐ 470 Racketeer Corrupt Or	ms Act I USC portionmed Banking In Influenced ganization Credit IV Commoditi atory Actic al Acts Influenced Influenced were a second to the se	d and ns ties/ tons rs tion	
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND S	(	CHECK YES only		mplaint: 'No		
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